



The savings so far...

Federal refunds: \$3,722,423
State refunds: \$370,496
Prep fee savings: \$279,159
Returns filed: 2,999



Photos from the 47th annual air show

... page 3



Friday: Sunny
High: 88 Low: 57
Saturday: Sunny
High: 86 Low: 55
Sunday: Partly cloudy
High: 78 Low: 51

Serving Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona

DESERT WARRIOR

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March 19, 2009

Yuma scorches world record



Photo by Sgt. Terika S. King

Spectators gaze as a world record-breaking 10,178.3-foot Wall of Fire erupts on the air station's flight line during the grand finale of the 2009 Yuma Air Show Saturday. The wall coincided with the final pass of the air show's headline act "Tora, Tora, Tora," which re-enacts the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Wall of Fire attracts 37,000 spectators to 47th air show

Lance Cpl. Graham J. Benson
Desert Warrior Staff

Concluding with a record-breaking Wall of Fire, Saturday's 2009 Yuma Air Show broke attendance records, as approximately 37,000 spectators flooded the flight line.

The 10,178.3 foot long and 150 foot high Wall of Fire and "Tora, Tora, Tora" Pearl Harbor re-enactment on the station's flight line served as the grand finale to the celebration of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma's 50th anniversary.

"The Wall of Fire was a huge success, and we definitely broke the record," said Roger Lopez, Marine Corps Community Services marketing director.

A team of engineers measured the wall to ensure it met all specifications required for breaking the record. The information is in the process of being submitted to the Guinness Book of World Records.

The previous record set in 2007 in Indiana was 6,636 feet long.

Site preparation for the Wall of Fire began several weeks before the air show.

The entire runway along the wall had to be cleared of vegetation and debris to prevent any fire hazards along that area.

"The air show's success this year was dependent on a joint effort by all the Marines and sailors involved, as well as their civilian counterparts at the Base Services Department," said Capt. John Jedra, Installation and Logistics deputy director.

Organizers credit the large increase in attendance, approximately 32 percent from last year, to a very active marketing plan.

"Our sponsors really came through and helped

us get the word out this year. You couldn't turn on the television or radio without hearing about the air show," said Lopez. "Grassroots efforts by the pilots were very effective in attracting a younger crowd. In the two weeks leading up to the show, they went to schools and hospitals getting the kids

see AIR SHOW page 3

Gunny Ermey a fan fav on flight line

Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon
Desert Warrior Staff

After the Wall of Fire, perhaps the next longest thing at Saturday's Yuma Air Show was the line of people waiting to meet Hollywood's hardest-working Marine—R. Lee Ermey.

The iconic actor, best known as the sharp-tongued drill instructor from "Full Metal Jacket," accepted a



Photo by Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre

see ERMEY page 4

MWSS-371 departs for Afghanistan

Lance Cpl. Graham J. Benson
Desert Warrior Staff

The main body of Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 departed from the flight line here Monday evening, beginning their deployment to Afghanistan.

MWSS-371 is deploying with approximately 460 Marines to southern Afghanistan.

While there, they will work with British forces supporting the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade out of Camp Lejeune, N.C., said Lt. Col. John B. Hicks, MWSS-371 executive officer.

"We will be fulfilling all of the functions of aviation support while there," said Hicks. "There's nothing sexy about what we do, but I compare us to the offensive line in football. Nobody misses us until we don't show up for the game, then you know what we do."

While deployed, MWSS-371 will provide airfield and weather operations, firefighting and rescue, food service and ground refueling among other duties.

"I'm excited about getting out there and

see MWSS-371 page 4

Civilian awarded CBRNE Protection Officer of Year

Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre
Desert Warrior Staff

The station chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosives protection officer, Timothy Beeler, was named the CBRNE Protection Officer of the Year Feb. 24 at the Marine Corps Security Conference Banquet in San Antonio.

Every Marine installation has a CBRNE protection officer and a Headquarters Marine Corps board selected Beeler from candidates Corpwide.

"I was honored and surprised," said Beeler, who credits the award to the people he works with. "It's a team concept. It takes everybody to come together."

Pete Loughlin, station mission assurance director, nominated Beeler for the award.

"Since his arrival, he has hit the ground running and has continued to excel. He possesses that rare combination of technical expertise and a common sense approach that enables him to effectively run his program," said Loughlin.

Beeler has completed 12 Federal Emergency Management Agency courses and has been certified as a technician in emergency medical services and CBRNE hazardous material. His other certified courses include responder awareness, responder operations and incident command courses.

These are only some of the courses Beeler has completed that pertain to his field of work.

In October 2008, Beeler was recognized by Marine Forces Pacific as a leader in his field during a staff assist visit by functional area experts, and was requested to brief the HQMC Security and Law Enforcement Conference audience on a



Timothy Beeler

Illegal traffic moving east after Goldwater lockdown



File photo

As part of increased border security in the area, a section of fence is built on the Colorado River portion of the U.S.-Mexico border July 25, 2008. The recent decrease in human traffic in the Yuma area has caused a sharp increase in violence and drug traffic to the Tucson sector east of here. Last year, the Tucson sector had 261 assaults on officers, while prior to the Yuma area's border lockdown, they only had 103 assaults.

Lance Cpl. Gregory Aalto
Desert Warrior Staff

After the halt of nearly all illegal immigrant activity on Yuma's Barry M. Goldwater Range, the amount of illicit drug smuggling and assaults to Border Patrol officers east of here has risen sharply.

In the Border Patrol's Tucson sector, east of the Marine Corps portion of the range, the amount of marijuana seized has increased 88 percent since 2004 and 228 percent since 1999.

Violence has also escalated to the east.

"The (illegal immigrants) are becoming more aggressive as the difficulty to transfer humans has

increased," said Michael Scioli, Tucson sector Border Patrol agent.

In 2004, the Tucson sector, which goes from Yuma County to the Arizona-New Mexico border, had 103 assaults on officers. Last year, it jumped to 261.

By making human trafficking more difficult, the price for an individual to be smuggled has increased. Because of this, the smuggling cartels are now becoming more aggressive in assuring the people being transported get to their destinations, said Scioli.

These changes to the east are being attributed to the Yuma sector's border lockdown, said Ben Vik, Yuma sector supervisory border

see LOCKDOWN page 2

see CBRNE page 4

HQMC axes 22 MOS bonuses

Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard
Desert Warrior Staff

First-term re-enlistment bonuses are no longer offered for several military occupational specialties.

Since retention goals were met earlier than expected for fiscal year 2009, Marines from 22 military jobs will not be able to receive re-enlistment bonuses.

Bonuses for an MOS are canceled when that field meets its retention goal for the year, though it may still have available spaces, said Staff Sgt. Jose Mejia, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron career retention specialist.

So when the bonuses disappear, it means the MOS is nearing 100 percent capacity.

Some of the affected MOSs here include aircraft ordnance technicians, aircraft intermediate level structures mechanics and aircraft electrical systems technicians.

All affected fields are 0627, 1361, 1371, 2131, 2141, 2146, 2171, 3043, 3044, 3112, 3521, 4133, 4671, 5711, 6092, 6153, 6154, 6223, 6332, 6531, 7234 and 7236.

The Corps’ goal for 2009 was to retain 7,334 first-term Marines, said Mejia. Approximately 7,300 have re-enlisted so far, leaving roughly 30 spaces Corpswide before the goal is met.

Although, this does not mean there are only 30 available spaces left. It is what is needed to accomplish the mission. Overall, there are approximately 400 spaces left in the Corps said Mejia.

If an MOS is closed, Marines may still be able to receive a bonus by re-enlisting into a new MOS.

Another option is to re-enlist into a closed MOS through the Quality Re-enlistment Program, while possibly retaining the MOSs’ bonuses. The program creates additional spaces in a closed MOS, up to 105 percent capacity, to give exceptional Marines the opportunity to retain their jobs.

Requirements for the QRP include having a first class physical fitness test score, being a noncommissioned officer and having a recommendation from their commanding officer.

“Spaces are going fast,” said Mejia. “I recommend that anyone considering re-enlisting this year hurry up and make up their minds, or else they won’t have a choice.”

Although this is the second change to fiscal year 2009’s bonuses, Mejia does not believe it will be the last.

“I think we can expect to see a ‘change three’ to the MarAdmin before the end of the year,” he said.

For a list of MOSs with available bonuses open for lateral moves, see Marine Administrative Message 370/08 or contact your unit’s career planner.

A day in my boots



Photo by Lance Cpl. Gregory Aalto

A Cibola High School junior talks to Sgt. Jarod Boyes, Marine Air Control Squadron 1 tactical data systems administrator, at the Cannon Air Defense Complex as part of Cibola’s job explorer program Friday. During the visit, Boyes showed students how he does his job and also talked to them about Marine Corps life and their futures.

National Guard may deploy to Arizona-Mexico border

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — As President Barack Obama considers deploying National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border to control escalating violence, Arizona’s governor has requested about 250 more National Guard troops on its border with Mexico.

“I haven’t drawn any conclusions yet,” said Obama. “I don’t have a particular tipping point in mind.”

While emphasizing that he does not want to “militarize” the border, Obama called it “unacceptable if you’ve got drug gangs crossing our borders and killing our citizens.”

“I think if one U.S. citizen is killed because of foreign nationals who are engaging in violent crime, that’s enough of a concern to do something about it,” said Obama.

The president noted that Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited Mexico last week to meet with his Mexican counterparts about the situation and to discuss additional support the United States could provide.

Meanwhile, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer sent a letter to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates requesting 250 more National Guard soldiers to be posted along the 350-mile Arizona-Mexico border.

“We’re going to examine whether, and if, National Guard deployments would make sense and in what circumstances they would

make sense as part of this overall review of our border situation,” said Obama on March 12.

Although Brewer has the authority to call up the troops, she asked Gates to mobilize them as part of the federally funded Joint Counter Narco-terrorism Task Force. That force currently includes about 150 Army and Air National Guard members.

“Arizona communities and citizens are negatively affected by the impacts of the illegal drug trade and related border violence, and enforcement agencies in all jurisdictions are stretched as they attempt to address the enormity of the problems,” said Brewer. “The support these additional soldiers can provide to law enforcement agency operations would prove invaluable.”

In neighboring Texas, Gov. Rick Perry has expressed the need for more troops or border agents along its border with Mexico. Perry reiterated at a ceremony last week the need for more help to disrupt operations of the Mexican Mafia, Texas Syndicate, Barrio Azteca, Mara Salvatrucha 13 and other violent transnational gangs.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman told reporters March 12 it’s too soon to know if additional military support will be granted.

The last major federal National Guard mission along the U.S.-Mexico border was Operation Jump Start.

The two-year mission, from June 2006 to July 2008, dispatched as many as 6,000 National Guard members to Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas to make the border more secure for legal immigration and commerce until the U.S. Border Patrol could boost its own ranks.

Guard members did not serve in a direct law-enforcement role,

but provided vital reinforcement to the Border Patrol. Their missions included engineering, aviation, entry identification teams, and a wide range of technical, logistical and administrative support.

By the time the mission ended in July, more than 30,000 citizen-soldiers and -airmen from across the nation had participated.

Whitman emphasized that the proposed border mission, if ultimately approved, would have a very different purpose and timeline than Operation Jump Start.

In the meantime, the United States is exploring other ways it can help Mexico deal with escalating violence.

“We continue to offer Mexico assistance in any number of ways,” said Whitman.

The Merida Initiative, for example, provides Mexico and several other countries funding to counter drug trafficking, and the U.S. military has a strong military-to-military partnership with Mexico. The United States is also providing Mexico foreign military financing for five helicopters, a maritime surveillance aircraft and handheld scanners used for detection purposes, Whitman said.

“The U.S. government as a whole is concerned about the escalating violence and its effect on public security as well as the Southwest U.S. border,” said Whitman. “I think that what you are seeing is a recognition of the problem that is facing the Mexican government, and as good neighbors, the United States is looking at any number of ways in which we might be able to render some additional assistance.”

LOCKDOWN ... from page 1

patrol agent.

Since 2004, a multifaceted attack by the air station and Customs and Border Protection stopped nearly all human and drug traffic on the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

“Everyone we are catching in Wellton, (Ariz.) is coming from the east now,” said Vik.

In the past, most illegal immigrant apprehensions came from the south.

This recent rise in activity to the east of the Goldwater Range is following a trend of illegal immigration that has held steady for 15 years.

In 1994, the Border Patrol launched Operation Gatekeeper, focusing border security on the five westernmost miles of the California-Mexico border. By 1997, the program extended eastward, allocating funds and manpower to the El Centro sector, which ends at the Imperial Sand Dunes, west of Yuma.

Another result of the illegal immigration moving eastward is the effect of humans and vehicles to the Sonoran Pronghorn, a deer-like animal from the antelope family.

The increased activity is having a large effect on the Sonoran Pronghorn and will likely make an even larger impact this spring, said James Atkinson, wildlife biologist and Sonoran Pronghorn recovery team leader for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department.

Between March and June, the fawns end up being separated from the does when illegal immigrants and Border Patrol personnel and vehicles disturb them.

The separation causes the fawns to die, said Atkinson. Fawns are disappearing at the same time each year because of disturbances.

“It’s the human presence that is doing this,” said Atkinson.

One concern of station personnel and U.S.

Fish and Wildlife is that the ground activity will drive the Sonoran Pronghorn onto the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

However, the Sonoran Pronghorn have recently been showing no organized migrations. They have a massive flight response, causing them to flee from minimal disturbances.

“The pronghorn have been unexpectedly popping up with no explanation,” said Atkinson. “I don’t have an answer yet, but it wouldn’t surprise me if some of these animals had to move a great distance every day to avoid disturbances.”

Currently, the animals have not migrated directly onto Goldwater Range. However, if the animals do begin to move, U.S. Fish and Wildlife could place flight restrictions above the range, said Pete Loughlin, station mission assurance director.

DESERT WARRIOR

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A group of people wait to enter a B-17 bomber on the flight line Saturday during the 2009 Yuma Air Show as performer Jon Melby dives through the sky above in his Pitts S1-11B Biplane.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Gregory Aalto



Photo by Lance Cpl. Graham J. Benson

Carlos Perez, 7, attempts to remove a helmet next to the station Search and Rescue HH-1N helicopter display on the flight line at the air show Saturday.

AIR SHOW ... from page 1

excited about the show.”

Other performances included skydiving demonstrations by Yuma Proving Ground military freefall instructors, a demonstration of the AV-8B Harrier’s vertical landing capabilities, performances from Yuma and Kofa High School bands and a heritage flight from a F-16 Viper and a World War II-era P-51 Mustang, representing Air Force history.

Civilian pilots also performed using their aircraft at the show.

Funding for the Wall of Fire and the private air show performers was paid for by the air show’s commercial sponsors, said Lopez.

For some, the air show was so satisfying, they had a hard time deciding their favorite part.

“I really enjoyed the whole day,” said Larry Summers, a Yuma winter-resident. “The Wall of Fire was obviously spectacular, but the Harrier demonstration was also very impressive.”



Photo by Lance Cpl. Pete Zrioka

Gary Johanson, left, and Wayne Hawarmer look at a static display of a AD Sky Raider on the flight line Saturday during the 2009 Yuma Air Show.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Graham J. Benson

Master Sgt. Donald E. Hendricks, station and air show operations chief, celebrates after successfully igniting the air show’s record-breaking Wall of Fire on the flight line Saturday.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Pete Zrioka

The record-breaking 10,178-foot Wall of Fire erupts along the flight line as the grand finale to the 47th annual Yuma Air Show Saturday.

MWSS-371 ... from page 1

experiencing my first deployment,” said Cpl. Bryan S. Weingart II, MWSS-371 meteorological and oceanographic weather observer. “This is why I joined the Marine Corps, and it’s good to finally get a chance to go.”

The southern area of Afghanistan has seen a sharp increase of insurgent and drug trafficking-related violence throughout late 2008 and early 2009, according to the Department of Defense.

MWSS-371’s last deployment was to Al Taqaddum, Iraq, in October 2007.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Graham J. Benson

Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 Marines load their packs and sea bags in the MWSS-371 barracks parking lot Monday afternoon, before leaving Monday evening. MWSS-371 is currently deployed to southern Afghanistan.

LOCKDOWN ... from page 1

program he helped develop.

According to the team that comprised the staff assist visit, Beeler’s in-depth knowledge of the fire department’s operations and organization has allowed him to gain the trust and confidence of the station fire department’s leadership. His strong medical background has also allowed him to work seamlessly with the medical staff here. He has been able to put all of his assets together to make one of the most organized and proactive CBRNE programs they have observed to date.

Beeler also implemented a program that ensured the station civilian law enforcement officers received respiratory physical exams and mask fittings prior to mandates.

Beeler is implementing a Shelter in Place program by integrating

these efforts with the fire department’s fire prevention program. Hopefully, this ensures the base population is educated on the importance of having an SIP plan and will assist in identifying the proper rooms within buildings for SIP purposes.

Beeler also established a Food Vulnerability Assessment Program for which he is sought out extensively by his peers to get information on the program.

The impact Beeler has had beyond here is noteworthy, said Loughlin.

“He has taken the time to assist some of his contemporaries on the more intricate CBRNE requirements and has also provided higher HQ with an installation protection officer’s perspective,” said Loughlin.

ERMEY ... from page 1

last-minute invitation to attend the 47th annual air show.

“I was feeling rather guilty,” said ErmeY. “I hadn’t been down here in about eight years.”

Attending his first Yuma Air Show, ErmeY met countless fans, signed autographs and posed for snapshots throughout the day. As a testament to his commitment to Marines, ErmeY held fast on the flight line approximately two hours after the air show’s final act.

“I just won’t stand up and walk away from people who’ve been waiting in line. I think that’s a chicken s--- thing to do, and I won’t do it,” he said. “I’ll hang in there until everybody’s taken care of.”

ErmeY said he devotes approximately 100 days each year visiting Marines across the globe. In recent years, he’s visited troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and he’s been the guest of honor at Marine birthday balls in Okinawa, Japan, for the past four years.

“They retired me back in 1971, and I kept showing up for work,” said ErmeY. “And I’ve been showing up ever since.”

The former Marine left the ranks as a staff

sergeant, but was honorarily promoted to gunnery sergeant in 2002.

ErmeY began filming this week for his new upcoming History Channel show “Lock N’ Load,” an hourlong look at various weapons similar to his popular program “Mail Call,” which was recently cancelled.

“I just dusted off ‘Mail Call’ and gave it a new name,” he said.

The show’s 13-episode first season is scheduled to begin airing in July, said ErmeY.

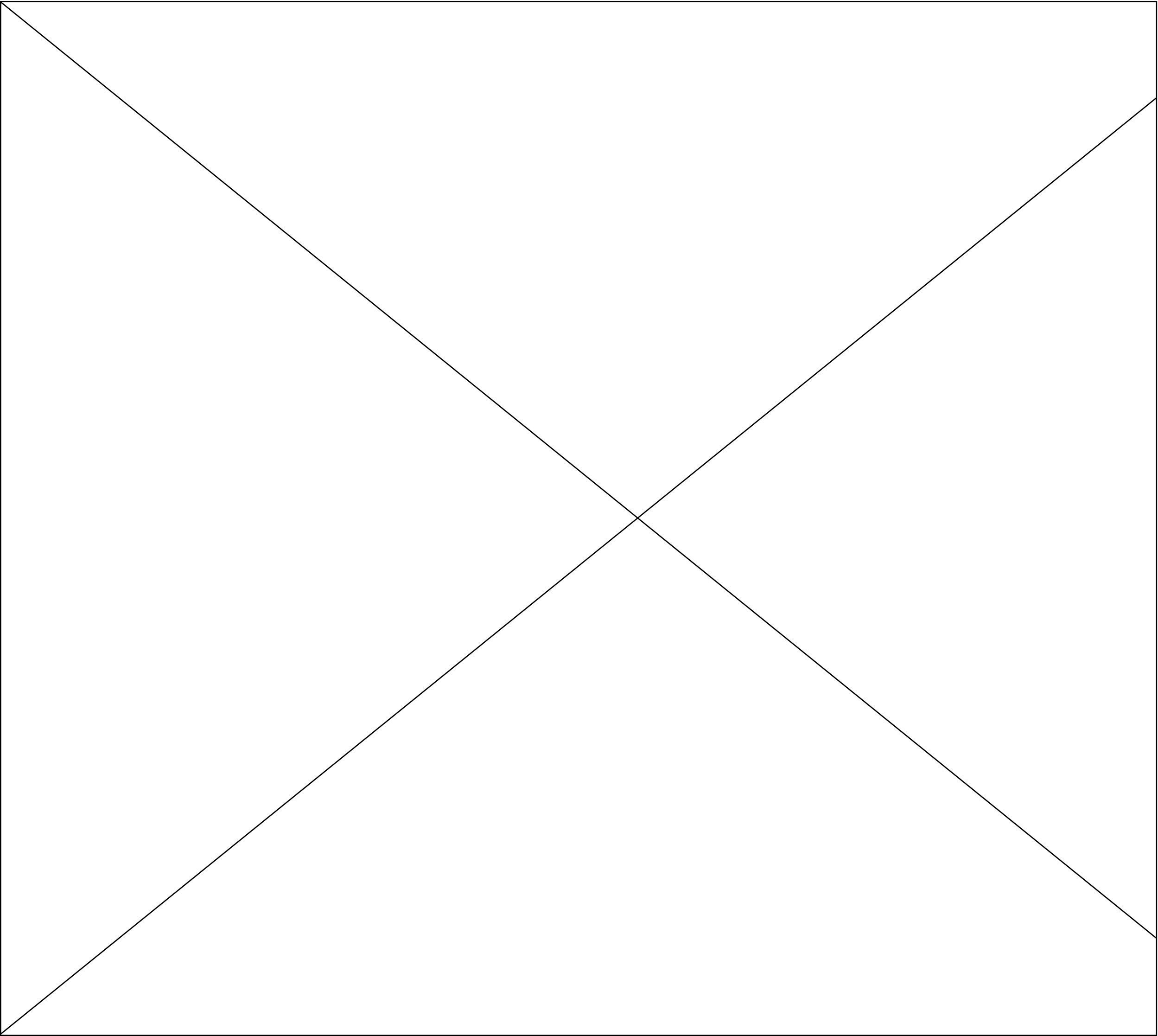
ErmeY also recently wrapped up recording his vocal role as Sarge in the upcoming animated film “Toy Story 3,” scheduled to hit theaters in 2010.

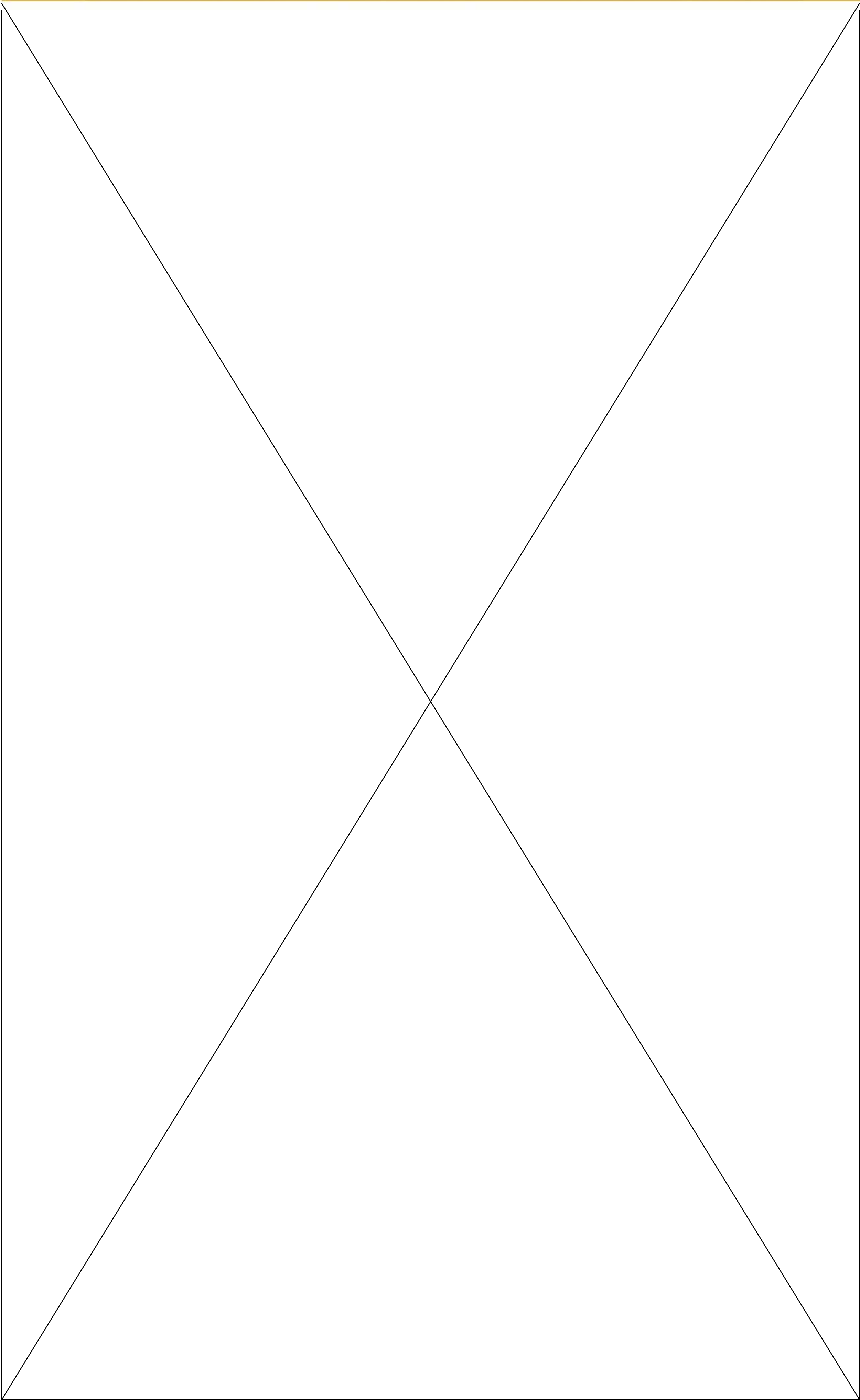
Though he didn’t see much of the air show, ErmeY did take a break to watch the Wall of Fire.

“It was a hell of an explosion,” he said. “It was a great grand finale.”

While a repeat performance of the flaming feat is uncertain, an ErmeY encore is more likely.

“I’ll come back next year if I’m invited,” he said.





AT EASE

News to Use

Door-to-door solicitors preying on Marines

A company known as “Metropolitan Education Enterprises” has recently conducted door-to-door sales aboard Camp Pendleton and may attempt to do so on other military installations in the region.

The company sells educational programs, laptop computers and encyclopedias. Marines who have signed up for their products have been charged as much as 18 percent in finance charges. Soliciting door to door is a violation of an air station order and Secretary of the Navy Instruction 1740.2E, which outlines rules for commercial solicitation on military installations.

Marines, sailors and their families who are contacted on base by this company or others without invitation should contact the provost marshal’s office at 928-269-2361.

Volunteer opportunities available in Yuma

• The Asthma Coalition in Yuma County needs volunteers to help set up and take down two tents and 30 cots for their annual “Camp Not-A-Choo.”

Set up will go at 9 a.m. Friday and take down will go at 4:30 p.m. Saturday. A letter of appreciation will be given to all who participate.

For more information, e-mail daniel.labounty@usmc.mil.

• Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society is offering volunteer caseworker training and Budget for Baby instructor training April 21-23 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

New volunteers are needed to keep NMCRS programs running in Yuma. Volunteers receive mileage reimbursement and free child care. Volunteers can learn new skills, meet new people and build their resume for the future.

For more information or to sign up for classes, call 928-269-2373.

Safe & Smart Calendar

The following courses are offered by the station’s safety department.

Alive at 25: required for all Marines 25 & under

- March 30
- April 6

Class begins at 8 a.m. in building 460.

Basic Motorcycle Riders Course

- April 7-9

Class begins at 8 a.m. in building 460.

Experienced Motorcycle Riders Course

- April 14

Class begins at 8 a.m. in building 460.

Sport Bike Riders Course

- April 17

Class begins at 8 a.m. in building 460.

Attitudinal Defensive Driving

- March 26

Class begins at 8 a.m. in building 460.

In order to register for any motorcycle classes, riders must have motorcycles inspected by a unit motorcycle representative or at the station safety office. See Paul Lasko Fridays at 9 a.m. at building 460 for inspections.

Helmets and gloves can be provided for riders taking motorcycle courses. Riders must wear hard soled boots or shoes and a long-sleeved shirt or riding jacket. Protective equipment must be in serviceable condition.

Trainer motorcycles are available for students on a first-come, first-served basis. Students who own a motorcycle should take the course on their own vehicles.

For more information or to register for a class, call Belinda Henson at 928-269-5699. Classes are first-come, first-served and class schedules are subject to change. Students will be informed of any changes prior to the actual class date.

In Theaters

Thursday

Frost / Nixon (R)
7 p.m.

Friday

The Uninvited (PG-13)
6 p.m.

New in Town (PG)
9 p.m.

Saturday

Taken (PG-13)
4 p.m.

My Bloody Valentine (R)
7 p.m.

Sunday

Hotel for Dogs (PG)
5 p.m.

Monday

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG)
7 p.m.

Tuesday

Underworld 3: Rise of the Lycans (R)
7 p.m.

Wednesday

Free admission
Inkheart (PG)
7 p.m.

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Call 928-269-2358 or visit
<http://www.yuma.usmc-mccs.org/theater.htm>

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Weekdays

Breakfast: 5:30 - 7:30 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dinner: 4 - 6 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday

Breakfast/Brunch: 9 a.m. to noon
Dinner: 3 - 5 p.m.

Prices

For military without meal cards
Breakfast: \$2.30
Lunch and dinner: \$4.25

HOURS OF OPERATION

THURSDAY

LUNCH: Cream of Broccoli Soup
Italian Beef & Rice
Turkey Monterey
Paprika Buttered Potatoes
Wax Beans
Peas

DINNER: Beef Stroganoff
Buttered Egg Noodles
Au Gratin Potatoes
Squash & Carrots Medley
Green Beans
Corn Bread

FRIDAY

LUNCH: Clam Chowder
Tater Tot Casserole
Parmesan Fish
Rice Pilaf
Glazed Carrots
Broccoli

DINNER: Cajun Roast Beef
Fried Chicken
Red Beans & Rice
Mashed Potatoes
Collard Greens
Creamed-style Corn

SATURDAY

BRUNCH: Eggs
Navy Bean Soup
Cold Cereals
Sausage Patties
Oven-fried Bacon
... and more

DINNER: Turkey Noodle Soup
Beef Lasagna
Caribbean Chicken Breast
Cilantro Rice
French-style Green Beans
Summer Squash

SUNDAY

BRUNCH: Eggs
Grilled Ham Slices
Oven-fried Bacon
Pancakes / Waffles
Chicken Sandwich
... and more

DINNER: Teriyaki Beef Strips
Baked Stuffed Fish
Baked Macaroni & Cheese
Ginger Rice
Mixed Vegetables
Stewed Tomatoes

MONDAY

LUNCH: Vegetable Soup
Chicken Cacciatore
Chicago-style,
Open-faced Sandwich
Steamed Rice
Green Beans w/ Mushrooms

DINNER: Meat Loaf
Cuban Pork Lion
Mashed Potatoes
Orange Rice
Wax Beans
Simmered Carrots

TUESDAY

LUNCH: Turkey Noodle Soup
Veal Parmesan
Honey Lemon Chicken
Spaghetti
w/ Marinara Sauce
Long Grain & Wild Rice

DINNER: Country-style Steak
Greek Lemon Turkey Pasta
Mashed Potatoes
Black-eyed Peas
Mixed Potatoes
Garlic Bread

WEDNESDAY

LUNCH: Wild Turkey Chili
Kansas City BBQ Brisket
Southern-fried Catfish
Baked Macaroni & Cheese
Oven-browned Potatoes
Glazed Carrots

DINNER: Yankee Pot Roast
Pork Teriyaki Stir Fry
Confetti Rice
Roast Potato Wedges
Green Beans
Dinner Rolls



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ADS

New Web-based TMO system gives service members more options

Cpl. M. Daniel Sanchez
Desert Warrior Staff

Marines switching duty stations can now choose what company ships their household goods.

Previously, Marines had no choice about what company moved their property when scheduling a government move. However, through the Defense Personal Property System, implemented here March 9, they now have more control of their moving process.

DPS is an automated management system developed to ease the stress of permanent changes of station by providing 24-hour online access to personal property shipment information. The system provides service members the ability to communicate directly with transportation service providers regarding shipment status, weight costs and delivery options. Customers can also use DPS to file and settle loss and damage claims directly with their service providers, rather than going through a base’s traffic management office.

This new system puts most of the power and responsibility of moving into the service members’ hands, while keeping a few safeguards in place to protect users, said Gunnery Sgt. Shaun Carlson, station traffic management office chief.

Although customers can choose their moving company, they are limited by the government, said Carlson.

All transportation service providers have to be screened and approved by the government, before they are put on the Web site as options for users, said

Carlson. Providers are evaluated based on price, customer evaluations and how efficient their claims process is.

Although Marines will now be able to coordinate most of the moving process online, there are a few steps they have to take before they can use DPS.

Since there are several instances when a Marine will need to use the old process, the first thing they should do is bring their military orders to TMO to determine what steps to take, said Carlson.

Marines moving for the first time or making their final permanent change of station move are not eligible to use DPS, said Sgt. Jason Moore, station TMO personal property noncommissioned officer in charge. To use DPS, Marines must be moving to a base where its TMO also uses the system.

Once a Marine is approved to use DPS, they must register at www.move.mil to begin the process.

Since it’s still a new program, using it is going to be a learning process, but TMO personnel are ready to provide assistance, said Carlson.

“We can walk customers through the process if they need it,” said Carlson.

TMO personnel will also make sure service members have correctly completed each step in the moving process and act as the final approving authority for shipments, said Carlson.

Carlson also encourages DPS users to fill out the customer evaluation surveys.

“It’s extremely important, because half of the score for movers comes from the client’s survey,” said Carlson.

Overall, the program is going to simplify things for Marines moving, said Carlson.

Caring for veterans is matter of American honor, Obama says

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Caring for veterans is a responsibility and duty for all Americans, and the employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs are those who are charged with repaying “that debt of honor,” President Barack Obama said Monday.

The president promised the VA employees that he will make good on his promise to create a 21st-century department.

VA, formerly called the Veterans Administration, became a cabinet-level department in 1989. Employees are charged with providing education, training benefits, health care, home loans and cemeteries for American veterans.

“It’s a commitment that lasts from the day our veterans retire that uniform to the day that they are put to rest, and it continues on for their families,” said Obama.

U.S. servicemembers are the country’s best and brightest, said Obama. “They are our bravest, enlisting in a time of war, enduring tour after tour of duty, serving with honor under the most difficult circumstances and making sacrifices that many of us cannot begin to imagine,” he said. The department must take care of these people and of their families, he added.

The VA mission always is vital, but it is even more so during long and difficult conflicts like today’s, said Obama.

“Last month, I announced my strategy for ending the war in Iraq, and I made it very clear that this strategy would not end with the military plans and diplomatic agendas, but would endure through my commitment to upholding our sacred trust with every man and woman who has served this country,” said Obama. “And the same holds true for our troops serving in Afghanistan.”

The president has requested an extra \$25 billion for the department over the next five years. The agency – under the leadership of retired Army Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, former Army chief of staff — is reviewing its operations.

“With this budget, we don’t just fully fund our VA health care program,” said Obama. “We expand it to serve an additional 500,000 veterans by 2013, to provide better health care in more places and to dramatically improve services related to mental health and injuries like post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.”

Obama said technology also will help to cut red tape and ease the transition from active duty. He promised new help for homeless veterans, “because those heroes have a home.”

“It’s the country they served—the United States of America,” said Obama. “And until we reach a day when not a single veteran sleeps on our nation’s streets, our work remains unfinished.”

He called on VA employees to help to implement the GI Bill for the 21st century. Just as the veterans of World War II formed the backbone of the progress after that war, the veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan too, can be the catalyst for progress. The deadline for putting the rules for the new GI Bill in place is Aug. 1.

“That’s how we’ll show our servicemen and women that when you come home to America, America will be here for you,” Obama said. “That’s how we will ensure that those who have borne the battle, and their families, will have every chance to live out their dreams.”

Transforming the agency is a tall order, Obama said, but he added that he has the fullest confidence that the men and women of the department can do it.

The United States will “fulfill our sacred trust and serve our returning heroes as well as they’ve served us,” said Obama.

